

acumen

shrewdness shown by keen insight

capitulate

To give in; to surrender under agreed conditions

bracing

structural items used to stiffen a framework

iconoclast

someone who tries to destroy traditional ideas or institutions

demur

take exception to

catholic

universal; general; broad-minded; including many different parts;

insurgent

a person who takes part in an armed rebellion against the authorities (especially in the hope of improving conditions)

prevail

to triumph over, succeed

fecund

fertile; productive

vigil

a devotional watch (especially on the eve of a religious festival)

stultify

to make useless or cripple; to have a dulling effect on

poignant

profoundly moving; touching

detritus

fragments resulting from destruction; loose bits of material resulting from disintegration or wearing away

encompass

to surround, include

soporific

sleep inducing

reproof

an act or expression of criticism and censure

invigorate

give life or energy to

hackneyed

used so often as to lack freshness or originality

tycoon

a very wealthy or powerful businessman

remonstrate

argue in protest or opposition

mordant

**biting or caustic in thought, manner, or style;
sharply or bitterly harsh**

catalyst

**something that causes an important event to
happen**

forestall

keep from happening or arising

inimical

hostile; unfriendly

buttress

a support usually of stone or brick